

Reading the River

Overview:

Students recognize river hazards and ways to overcome them by scouting a section of river and deciding the best course of action.

Associated Objectives:

- ☐ Students will practice river reading skills.

Time:

20 – 30 minutes

Materials:

A section of river/stream that may be walked on shore and has potential hazards, paper, pens/pencils, copies of “Potential River Hazards” and “River Paddling Hints” from the **River Reading Skills** section of the *Background Information*

Directions:

Have students work in pairs or small groups to look for potential hazards paddlers may encounter. Students should walk the shoreline of a local river or stream and write down anything that might cause problems while paddling. Students should brainstorm in pairs or small groups on how they would overcome the obstacle if they were paddling. Have students share their ideas. Discuss these, as well as other potential hazards students might encounter.

Evaluation:

Students should recognize potential river hazards and be able to overcome them.

Extensions:

Have students role play their course of action.